



NORWELL

Plymouth County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Norwell is an affluent suburban community in Plymouth County which still retains some of its past rural character. Bounded by the North River, Norwell attracted settlers for its agricultural land and its water power potential. Colonists built grist and sawmills on the river as well as boatyards, and shipbuilding was a major industry in Norwell until the draft of boats being built outstripped the depth of the river.

Poultry farming became the largest business in town and flourished until a virus killed off the flocks, wiping out many of the producers. The farmers had to sell off their land to developers, triggering a period of residential development and growth for the town. The end of the Second World War brought the G.I. Bill which provided low-interest loans for veterans and created a building boom that almost doubled the town's population between 1950 and 1955. This brought people with a diversity of backgrounds to what had been a homogeneous English and Scottish town. The new immigrants, unlike those which came to other area towns for mill jobs in the 19th century, are generally executives in the companies which occupy surrounding office parks.

Norwell now has a suburban residential character which residents feel has not detracted from its charm as a small, friendly, rural town.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Hanover and Rockland on the west, Pembroke on the south, Marshfield and Scituate on the east and northeast, and Hingham on the north. Norwell is about 14 miles east of Brockton, 17 miles north of Plymouth, 20 miles south of Boston, and 222 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 21.17 sq. miles

Land Area: 20.88 sq. miles

Population: 9,279

Density: 444 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Hingham Station)

Normal temperature in January.....27.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.7"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Cohasset, Hanover, Weymouth

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 659-8000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1888

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	6,127		
Democrats	1,671	27.3	%
Republicans	1,347	22.0	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,107	50.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Norwell town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	9,765	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	9,765	100.0
Male.....	4,770	48.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	62	0.6
Female.....	4,995	51.2	Mexican.....	12	0.1
Under 5 years.....	705	7.2	Puerto Rican.....	20	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	826	8.5	Cuban.....	4	-
10 to 14 years.....	803	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	26	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	626	6.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,703	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	251	2.6	White alone.....	9,478	97.1
25 to 34 years.....	837	8.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,667	17.1	Total population.....	9,765	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,695	17.4	In households.....	9,556	97.9
55 to 59 years.....	704	7.2	Householder.....	3,250	33.3
60 to 64 years.....	424	4.3	Spouse.....	2,424	24.8
65 to 74 years.....	611	6.3	Child.....	3,447	35.3
75 to 84 years.....	388	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	2,701	27.7
85 years and over.....	228	2.3	Other relatives.....	265	2.7
Median age (years).....	40.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	75	0.8
18 years and over.....	6,973	71.4	Nonrelatives.....	170	1.7
Male.....	3,314	33.9	Unmarried partner.....	69	0.7
Female.....	3,659	37.5	In group quarters.....	209	2.1
21 years and over.....	6,756	69.2	Institutionalized population.....	201	2.1
62 years and over.....	1,459	14.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	8	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,227	12.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	512	5.2	Total households.....	3,250	100.0
Female.....	715	7.3	Family households (families).....	2,709	83.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,370	42.2
One race.....	9,699	99.3	Married-couple family.....	2,424	74.6
White.....	9,529	97.6	With own children under 18 years.....	1,258	38.7
Black or African American.....	36	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	212	6.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	86	2.6
Asian.....	113	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	541	16.6
Asian Indian.....	15	0.2	Householder living alone.....	462	14.2
Chinese.....	36	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	224	6.9
Filipino.....	23	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,424	43.8
Japanese.....	6	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	752	23.1
Korean.....	25	0.3	Average household size.....	2.94	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.27	(X)
Other Asian ¹	8	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	3,318	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,250	98.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	68	2.0
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	19	0.6
Some other race.....	16	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	66	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,250	100.0
White.....	9,591	98.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,993	92.1
Black or African American.....	56	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	257	7.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.03	(X)
Asian.....	136	1.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.89	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	36	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	96
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Norwell is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 3, the Southeast Expressway, and State Route 123.

Rail

Commuter rail service is currently under consideration. There is no freight rail service in Norwell, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

Bus

Norwell is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides limited bus commuter service to Boston.

Other

The Marshfield Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,999'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Boston Harbor Commuter Services and Mass Bay Lines offers commuter boat service to Rowes Wharf, Boston, from neighboring Hingham.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Southshore Natural Science Center

Jacobs Lane

(781) 659-2559

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Norwell Knoll Nursing Home

Stetson Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.